

# 1.0 Introduction

This revised draft *Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement* (HSW EIS) provides environmental and technical information concerning the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) ongoing and proposed waste management practices at the Hanford Site in Washington state. The draft HSW EIS was initially issued in April 2002 for public comment (DOE 2002b). The HSW EIS updates previous environmental analyses prepared for waste management operations at the Hanford Site. It also addresses local decisions related to implementing decisions resulting from the Waste Management Programmatic EIS (WM PEIS, DOE 1997c). This revised draft HSW EIS has been issued to address new waste management alternatives that have been proposed since the initial draft HSW EIS was prepared. It also addresses comments received during the public review period for the first draft. As a result of those comments and other considerations, DOE decided to prepare this revised draft HSW EIS, which incorporates alternatives for disposal of immobilized low-activity waste (ILAW) from the treatment of Hanford Site tank waste in the waste treatment plant (WTP) currently under construction, an activity that was not included in the first draft (68 FR 7110).

This revised draft HSW EIS describes the environmental consequences of alternatives for constructing, modifying, and operating facilities to store, treat, and/or dispose of low-level (radioactive) waste (LLW), transuranic (TRU) waste, ILAW, and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) including WTP melters at Hanford. In addition, the potential long-term consequences of LLW, MLLW, and ILAW disposal on groundwater and surface water are evaluated for a 10,000-year period, although the DOE performance standards only require assessment for the first 1000 years after disposal (DOE 2001g). This document does not address non-radioactive waste that contains "hazardous" or "dangerous" waste, as defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 (42 USC 6901) and Washington State Dangerous Waste regulations (WAC 173-303). Following a previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC 4321) review (DOE 1997d), DOE decided to dispose of TRU waste in New Mexico at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), a repository that meets the requirements of 40 CFR 191 (63 FR 3623). This HSW EIS is being prepared in accordance with NEPA, the DOE implementing procedures for NEPA (10 CFR 1021), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

## 1.1 Organization of the HSW EIS

The organization and content of this revised draft HSW EIS are described briefly as follows:

- **Section 1.0 – Introduction:** Provides an introduction, organization of the EIS, a statement of the purpose and need for DOE action and description of the proposed action, an overview of Hanford Site cleanup operations including solid radioactive and mixed waste management activities, a discussion of related DOE programs and documents including Hanford's accelerated cleanup performance management plan, NEPA documents related to the HSW EIS, and the NEPA process for developing and finalizing the HSW EIS.